

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 05052 021009Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05 /067 W
-----047691 030534Z /11

R 020845Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5052

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MY
SUBJECT: ELECTIONS

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 3991 DTG 090855Z MAY 78, B) KUALA LUMPUR
A-038, APRIL 28, 1978, C) KUALA LUMPUR A-031, APRIL 1,
1978, D) KUALA LUMPUR 2100 (NOTAL) DTG 140227Z MAR 78

1. IN RECENT WEEKS ELECTION PREPARATIONS HAVE AC-
CELERATED TO THE POINT THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS ARE
NO LONGER VIEWED AS A CONTINGENCY BUT RATHER AS A
PROBABILITY WITHIN THE COMING EIGHT WEEKS. PARTIES
ARE REPORTEDLY FINALIZING ELECTION MANIFESTOS AND
ELECTORAL ALLIES, BOTH FORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL, ARE
ENTERING INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON SEAT ALLOCA-
TIONS. MEANWHILE THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS ANNOUNCED
THE DESIGNATION OF SOME 4,451 POLLING "STATIONS"
IN THE 114 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND THE APPOINTMENT OF STAFF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 05052 021009Z

TO MAN THESE. GHAFAR BABA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT COALITION, REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT ELECTIONS FOR STATE ASSEMBLY SEATS WOULD
NOT BE HELD AT THIS TIME IN SARAWAK, SABAH AND
KELANTAN (KELANTAN ELECTED A NEW STATE ASSEMBLY
THIS PAST MARCH, SABAH HELD ELECTIONS IN APRIL
1976, AND THE SARAWAK STATE ASSEMBLY'S FIVE-YEAR

TERM EXPIRES IN AUGUST 1979. THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT AND OTHER STATE ASSEMBLIES TERMS ALSO EXPIRE IN AUGUST 1979, BUT SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN SARAWAK WILL CAUSE THE STATE ELECTION TO BE DELAYED THERE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. SEE REF C). ELECTION COMMISSIONER DATUK ABDUL KADIR TALIB INDICATED THAT ELECTIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ELECTIONS ELSEWHERE BUT POLLING WOULD TAKE 14 DAYS IN SARAWAK AND 8 DAYS IN SABAH DUE TO TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS IN THOSE STATES.

2. ALL ALONG THERE HAS BEEN SOME QUESTION WHETHER NATIONAL ELECTIONS WOULD PRECEDE OR FOLLOW THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY/TRIENNIAL PARTY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22-25, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THE ASSEMBLY MIGHT BE POSTPONED (SEE REF B); WITH EACH PASSING DAY IT NOW APPEARS MORE LIKELY, THOUGH, THAT THE GA WILL BE HELD ON SCHEDULE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN JULY. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS YET TO DECIDE ON A PRECISE DATE FOR POLLS, THERE ARE STRONG INDICATORS THAT THEY MAY TAKE PLACE IN LATE JULY, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IN CONFIDENCE BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 05052 021009Z

KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES THAT POLICE LEAVE HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 15 TO AUGUST 5. (THE MUSLIM FASTING MONTH BEGINS AUGUST 3 OR 4 WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE ELECTIONS IN THAT TIME FRAME.)

3. FROM THE USG PERSPECTIVE THE ONLY RELEVANCE OF THE ELECTION DATE IS THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON VISITS HERE OR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS INVOLVING MALAYSIAN PARTICIPATION OVERSEAS. IF INDEED ELECTIONS ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR LATE JULY THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN MALAYSIAN RETICENCE REGARDING THE INITIAL PROPOSAL OF LATE JULY DATES FOR THE NEXT ROUND IN THE ASEAN-US DIALOGUE.
ROSENTHAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, SPECIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA05052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0654
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806103/aaaadkqe.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e229777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 3991, 78 KUALA LUMPUR 76
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2147287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e229777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014